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**Stillness of Crows**

Authored by Gabriel Rosenstock

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# STILLNESS OF CROWS

haiku by

**Gabriel Rosenstock**

in Irish & English

to artwork by

**Ohara Koson**

Foilsíodh cuid den ábhar seo cheana  
ar [Tuairisc.ie](http://Tuairisc.ie)

Eoin McEvoy a réitigh an t-eagrán seo.

Cóipcheart i leith na haiku: Gabriel Rosenstock 2018

Ealaín le hOghara Kōson. Tá an obair ealaíne san  
fhearann poiblí. Príomhfhoinsí na n-íomhánna:  
[WikiArt](#) agus [Pinterest](#).

*To the marvel that is Paula Marvally*

**Gabriel Rosenstock**  
was born in 1949 in postcolonial Ireland.

Poet, tankaist, haikuist, translator, novelist,  
playwright and essayist.

His multicultural blog:  
<http://roghaghabriel.blogspot.com/>



Other haiku books by Gabriel have been published by  
among others The Onslaught Press; Evertime; Long  
Exposure Press; The Silverstrand Press;  
Comhar; Anam Press; Cambridge Scholars  
Publishing; An Gúm; Original Writing; Kindle;  
Brandon; JUNPA.

Image source: <https://portraidi.ie/doras/52/1200/>

All artwork was created by Japanese master print  
maker **Ohara Koson** (1877-1945)

Gabriel Rosenstock writes:



"If we look at  
Koson's crow (1910)  
eating a persimmon,  
we see something of  
the haiku dynamic in  
its observation. That  
intentness of the  
crow, caught in a  
moment in time, is  
the same intentness  
of the Zen-haikuist:  
an easy, natural  
concentration upon  
the task at hand. Its  
beauty is not simply  
in its composition,  
the gorgeous  
contrast between  
the black plumage of  
the bird, the balance  
of stillness and  
movement; its  
beauty lies in its  
powerful immediacy

and physicality. A pared back sensuality, nothing  
superfluous, silence and deliciousness co-mingling in  
a unique expression of the Now. An eternal moment  
framed for all of us Now and eternally..."

# STILLNESS OF CROWS







go dtí seo  
lá an-ghnóthach a bhí ann –  
glasóg

**so far  
a helluva busy day –  
wagtail**



**plum tree -  
flowering in the eye  
of a bullfinch**

crann plumaí -  
faoi bhláth leis i súil  
an chorcráin choille



le gach cor is casadh  
an t-anam á chreimeadh . . .  
carbáin

**nibbling at the soul  
with every twist and turn . . .  
carp**



clapsholas  
an aigne 'bhí ar fán  
ar ais arís inti féin

**twilight**  
**the wandering mind**  
**comes home to itself**





**thoughts return  
to first day at school –  
sparrows in the rain**

téann smaointe ar ais  
'dtí an chéad lá ar scoil –  
gealbhain faoin mbáisteach



**long conversation  
with old friends –  
swallows about to disappear**

comhrá fada  
le seanchairde –  
fáinleoga ar tí dul as radharc



**enjoying the light breeze –  
small snail  
on a bamboo leaf**

sult á bhaint aige  
as leoithne –  
seilidín ar dhuilleog bhambú



**who knows  
if it'll get home alive . . .  
water strider**

cá bhfios  
an sroisfidh sé an baile slán . . .  
scinnire locháin





ábhar iontais  
don chearc i gcónaí –  
gairm an choiligh

**never ceases  
to amaze the hen –  
cock-crow at dawn**



gorméan . . .  
foirfe amach is amach  
a ghreim ar an gcraobh

**bluebird**  
**its grasp of the branch . . .**  
**utter perfection**



caislín cloch . . .  
go séimh! abair a ainm  
go séimh

**stonechat . . .**  
**softly! whisper its name**  
**softly**



scáthán ar ghile  
is ar dhoircheacht na cruinne –  
lus na gréine

**mirroring the brightness  
and darkness of the universe –  
sunflower**





tamall leis féin . . .  
préachán ar an *torii*  
ag machnamh go domhain

**a moment alone . . .  
crow on the *torii*  
in deep meditation**



báisteach thús an tsamhraidh –  
guth na cuaiche  
sular rugadh mé

**early summer rain –  
voice of the cuckoo  
before I was born**



stopann smaoineamh  
gan áit aige le dul -  
síodeitigh ag bailiú leo

**a thought stops  
nowhere to go -  
waxwings fly off**



an piasún glas  
á thionlacan aici seal -  
duilleog ag titim

**briefly accompanying  
a green pheasant -  
falling leaf**





na mílte haiku neamhscríofa –  
sciatháin leathair  
faoi sholas gealaí

**thousands  
of unwritten haiku –  
bats in moonlight**





stad den síneadh sin, a mhoncaí!  
istigh id' cheann  
atá an ghealach

**monkey, what is it with reaching!  
the moon is inside  
your head**



an domhan ag éirí seanda . . .  
lá i ndiaidh lae  
aibíonn an eorna

**the world grows older . . .  
day after day  
ripening barley**



cumha éigin  
nach bhfuil aon mhíniú air . . .  
druideanna faoin mbáisteach

**sadness  
that cannot be explained . . .  
starlings in rain**





ná bí buartha  
tá cúis le titim na nduilleog -  
om mani padme hum

**why worry  
the leaf falls for a reason  
om mani padme hum**



lá fada is ansin  
léim an bhradáin -  
san fholús

**a long day  
then the salmon's leap -  
into emptiness**





an chéad uair dó  
snáthaid mhór a bhlaiseadh -  
gealbhan óg

**first taste  
of dragon-fly -  
young sparrow**



í féin amháin  
atá eolach air -  
misean na coirre oíche

**known to itself  
and itself alone -  
the night heron's mission**



cad tá ar eolas againn?  
tumann an mallard  
san uisce

**what do we know?  
the mallard goes below  
for another probe**



cad as a dtánamar  
cá bhfuil ár dtriall  
. . . tost an phréacháin

**where have we come from  
where are we going  
. . . silence of the crow**





lá i ndiaidh lae  
an fhírinne lom aige á rá -  
grús bán

**day after day  
uttering simple truth -  
white crane**





cogadh á fhearadh  
áit éigin ar domhan -  
lachain ina gcodladh

**somewhere on earth  
war is being waged -  
sleeping ducks**



ní fada eile ar an saol seo di  
ná dá scáil -  
gé ramhar

**soon they'll be gone  
their shadows too -  
plump geese**





lá eile  
dátphluma eile -  
saol an mhoncaí

**another day  
another persimmon -  
the life of a monkey**



**beautiful when noisy  
beautiful in silence -  
gulls over rough seas**

álainn cé acu glórach  
nó 'na dtost iad -  
faoileáin os tonnta cáiteacha



neach eile  
níl mar í -  
nochtann an lampróg a hanam

**alone  
among all beings -  
firefly reveals its soul**





***Tanuki!***  
**will you change shape tonight?**  
**whisper of autumn grasses**

*Tanuki!*  
an athróidh tú cruth anocht?  
cogar sna féara fómhair



corra bána  
nár rugadh fós . . .  
cáitheadh sneachta

**white herons  
not born yet . . .  
whirling snow**



oíche réaltógach  
aimsíonn éigrit  
fara den scoth

**starry night  
an egret finds  
a perfect perch**



feitheamh fada  
na visteáiria –  
seo anois an bheach fá dheoidh

**long wait  
of the wistaria –  
now at last the bee arrives**





gorméin  
cad faoi atá siad ag smaoineamh . . .  
faic?

**bluebirds**  
**what are they thinking . . .**  
**nothing?**



grús ina sheasamh  
go maorga  
moileasc á dhíleá aige

**majestically it stands  
the crane . . .  
digesting a mollusc**



urnaí maidine  
gan smaoineamh . . .  
gan bhriathar

**morning prayer  
no thoughts . . .  
no words**





réidh chun a híomhá féin  
a shá!  
éigrit

**ready to spear  
its own image!  
an egret**





a crann féin  
is a géag féin aici . . .  
spioróg mhór

**it has its own tree  
its own branch . . .  
goshawk**



corraíonn rud éigin . . .  
an chorr ghormghlas amháin  
atá ar an eolas

**something stirring . . .  
only the green heron  
knows what it is**



an domhan seo . . .  
an taibhreamh é  
a shamhlaigh fia?

**this world . . .  
is it a dream  
imagined by a deer?**



báisteach gan stad . . .  
an teampall féin  
bíonn gá aige le níochna maith

**steady rain . . .  
even temples  
need a good washing**





is áille é  
agus preab bainte as . . .  
piasún

**startled  
and even more beautiful . . .  
the pheasant**



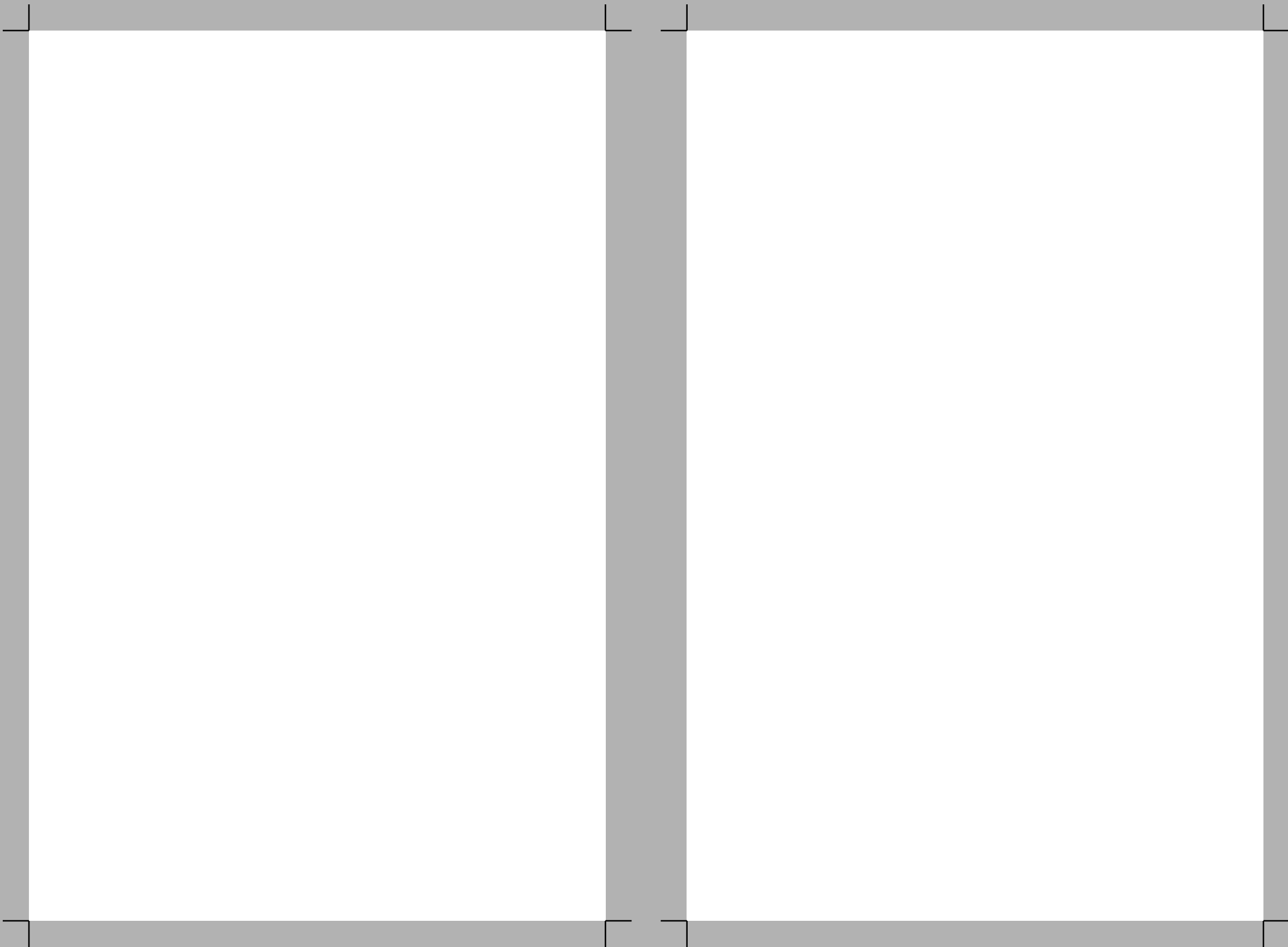
**hmmm?**  
**squelch of something**  
**in a beak**

hmmm?  
rud éigin gafa i ngob . . .  
glugar

Would you like to hear your favourite haiku from this book spoken in Irish, at a pace set by you, in one of the three main dialects of Irish?

Copy and paste the haiku in Irish into the synthesiser and take it from there:

[www.abair.tcd.ie/](http://www.abair.tcd.ie/)





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